

CLAIMS:

1. A method for color management by a retailer comprising the steps of:
- 5 choosing an engineered color standard (ECS);  
communicating the ECS to a product vendor;  
having a product produced using the ECS; and  
controlling a product's color quality by comparing the ECS to the product.
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2. A method for color management by a retailer comprising the steps of:
- 15 choosing an engineered color standard (ECS), the ECS comprising a component, the component being reflectance data and a dye specification;  
communicating the ECS to a product vendor;  
having a product produced using the ECS; and  
controlling a color quality of the product by comparing the ECS to the product.
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3. The method of claim 1 wherein the ECS further comprises a component being selected from the group consisting of dyestuff, dye specification, dyeing procedures, finishes, finishing procedures, preparation chemicals, preparation processes and combinations thereof.
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4. The method of claim 1 wherein choosing an engineered color standard further comprises:
- 30 designing a product having a color,  
communicating the color to a provider of engineered color standards, and  
analyzing the color to obtain the ECS.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein analyzing the color further comprises the step of using computer aided color matching techniques.

5 6. The method of claim 1 wherein communicating the ECS to the product vendor being selected from the group consisting of: physically sending the ECS, electronically sending the ECS, posting the ECS at a website, and combinations thereof.

10 7. The method of claim 1 wherein controlling the product's color by comparing the ECS to the produced product being selected from the group consisting of: visually inspecting, visually inspecting under a single light source, visually inspecting under multiple light sources, electronically inspecting, and combinations thereof.

15 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the product vendor is a textile vendor selected from the group consisting of: a cut and sew shop, a fabric mill, a dye house, or combinations of both.

20 9. A method for color management by a retailer comprising the steps of:  
providing an engineered color standard (ECS), the ECS comprising reflectance data, and a dyestuff formula;  
communicating the ECS to a product vendor;  
having a product produced using the ECS; and  
25 controlling a product's color quality by comparing the ECS to the product.

10 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the ECS further comprises a component being selected from the group consisting of dyestuff, dyeing procedures, finishes, finishing procedures, preparation chemicals, preparation processes and combinations thereof.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein providing an engineered color standard further comprises:

receiving a product having the color from a retailer;  
analyzing the color to obtain the ECS; and  
communicating the ECS to the retailer.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein analyzing the color comprises the step of using computer aided color matching techniques.

13. The method of claim 9 wherein communicating the ECS to the product vendor being selected from the group consisting of: physically sending the ECS, electronically sending the ECS, posting the ECS at a website, and combinations thereof.

14. The method of claim 9 wherein controlling the product's color by comparing the ECS to the produced product being selected from the group consisting of: visually inspecting, visually inspecting under a single light source, visually inspecting under multiple light sources, electronically inspecting, and combinations thereof.

15. The method of claim 9 wherein the product vendor is a textile vendor selected from the group consisting of: a cut and sew shop, a fabric mill, a dye house, or combinations of both.

16. The method of claim 11 wherein communicating the ECS to the retailer being selected from the group consisting of: physically sending the ECS, electronically sending the ECS, posting the ECS at a website, and combinations thereof.

17. A method for color management comprising the steps of:  
receiving a product having a color from a retailer;  
analyzing the color of the product to obtain an engineered color  
standard (ECS), the ECS comprising reflectance data; and  
5 communicating the ECS to the retailer.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the requestor being selected  
from the group consisting of retailers, designers, and combinations thereof, and  
the requestor not being selected from the group of cut and sew shops, fabric  
10 mills, dye house, and combinations thereof.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein the ECS further comprises a  
component being selected from the group consisting of dyestuff, dyeing  
procedures, finishes, finishing procedures, preparation chemicals, preparation  
15 processes and combinations thereof.

20. The method of claim 17 wherein analyzing the color shade  
comprises the step of using computer aided color matching techniques.

21. The method of claim 17 wherein communicating the ECS to the  
product vendor being selected from the group consisting of: physically sending  
the ECS, electronically sending the ECS, posting the ECS at a website, and  
20 combinations thereof.

22. A swatch for use in a color management process comprising: a  
colored substrate; a backing, the substrate being affixed to the backing;  
reflectance data being on the backing; and a dye specification being on the  
backing.

23. The swatch of claim 22 further comprising a bar code on the  
backing.

24. The method of claim 2 wherein the ECS further comprises a component being selected from the group consisting of dyestuff, dye specification, dyeing procedures, finishes, finishing procedures, preparation chemicals, preparation processes and combinations thereof.

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25. The method of claim 2 wherein choosing an engineered color standard further comprises:

designing a product having a color,

communicating the color to a provider of engineered color

10 standards, and

analyzing the color to obtain the ECS.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein analyzing the color further comprises the step of using computer aided color matching techniques.

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27. The method of claim 2 wherein communicating the ECS to the product vendor being selected from the group consisting of: physically sending the ECS, electronically sending the ECS, posting the ECS at a website, and combinations thereof.

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28. The method of claim 2 wherein controlling the product's color by comparing the ECS to the produced product being selected from the group consisting of: visually inspecting, visually inspecting under a single light source, visually inspecting under multiple light sources, electronically inspecting, and combinations thereof.

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29. The method of claim 2 wherein the product vendor is a textile vendor selected from the group consisting of: a cut and sew shop, a fabric mill, a dye house, or combinations of both.

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